

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

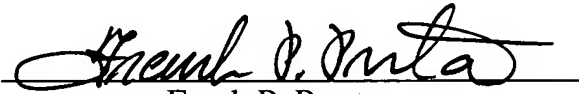
The claims have been amended to place the application in a more traditional U.S. format and/or to reduce the filing fees, without prejudice.

The specification has been amended to include the parent applications and the substitute abstract.

An early and favorable action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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## ABSTRACT

A particulate water absorbent contains a water absorbent resin as a main component, the water absorbent resin being a crosslinked polymer of a water-soluble unsaturated monomer. The water absorbent resin is particular in shape and contains particles of a particle size in a range of not less than 106  $\mu\text{m}$  and less than 850  $\mu\text{m}$  in an amount of not less than 90 mass percent with respect to the total mass of the water absorbent resin contained in the particulate water absorbent. The particulate water absorbent has a first salt concentration absorption index of not less than 0.60 as measured by a formula below when ion exchange water is used as an aqueous solution of a constant salt concentration: (salt concentration absorption index) = (absorbency against a pressure of 4.83 kPa with respect to the aqueous solution of a constant salt concentration)/(absorbency against no pressure with respect to the aqueous solution of a constant salt concentration).